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G. L. Loring
1837
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SATURDAY
MORNING
Saturday Morning, [December 23, 1837.]

My Dear Sir,

I am sorry to see that a meeting is advertised for tomorrow evening. I fear that the religiously disposed will not go out on Sunday evening. I beg, that as far as possible, all ^{passionateness} ~~preparations~~ may be avoided. I wish that you and Mr. Loring would state distinctly the objects of the meeting which was petitioned for, that it was intended to be held under the influence of religion, that it was to begin and to close with supplication for God's blessing, that it was intended also to embrace all parties, that the Mayor was to be requested to preside (Am I not right in this?), etc. My earnest desire is that we may have a meeting which will unite the people of our city in the expression of the great principles in which they really concur, and for this end exasperating views of one or another party should ^{be conscientiously} ~~con-~~ sistently be kept out of sight. If the Abolitionists will now take a generous position, if they will come forward as advocates of free discussion, and as the settled foes of violence and mobs, and will stop here, they will not only acquire new confidence, but what is more important, will give a decided impulse to the great principles on which all our reformatations and improvements must rest. If they try to mix up this meeting with Abolitionism, they will prevent a deep and cordial testimony against violence, and in favor of the rights of free discussion and the press. I wish of course to be kept out of sight as much as I can be. My present notoriety is painful enough. But if it is necessary, you can bear testimony to my views from the beginning,

W. Ellis Gray Loring.

Saturday Morning, December 22, 1851.

My Dear Sir:-

I am sorry to see that a meeting is advertised for tomorrow evening. I fear that the religiously disposed will not go out on Sunday evening. I beg, that as far as possible, all preparations be avoided. I wish that you and Mr. Loring would state distinctly the objects of the meeting which was petitioned for, that it was intended to be held under the influence of religion, that it was intended to give aid and support to God's blessing, that it was intended also to embrace all parties, that the Mayor was to be requested to give (as I not right in this?), etc. My earnest desire is that we may have a meeting which will unite the people of our city in the expression of the great principles in which they really concur, and for this end expounding views of one or another party should be entirely kept out of sight. If the Abolitionists will now take a generous position, if they will come forward as advocates of peace, discretion, and as the settled foes of violence and mob, and will stop here, they will not only acquire new confidence, but what is more important, will give a decided impulse to the great religious movement which all our reformations and improvements must rest. If they try to mix up the meeting with Abolitionism, they will prevent a deed and against violence, and in favor of the rights of the oppressed and the poor. I wish of course to be kept out of sight as much as I can do. My greatest anxiety is to be out of the way. It is necessary, you can see, testimony to my views from the meeting.

and

as expressed not only in conversation, but in my letters to you. May I ask one favor. If a meeting is to be held, let me be excused from all participation in it. This was my purpose from the beginning, as you will remember. I am nothing in a public meeting, and I believe I can do most good away from it. Communicate this to Mr. Loring, and I trust to his friendship as to yours, to save me from application which I must deny. I retain my opinion ~~expressed~~ from the beginning, that a meeting ought not to be forced. Unless it is a free, spontaneous, general act, let it give way. This will be ^a less evil than a poor, divided, angry meeting.

Yrs Truly,

Wm. E. Channing.

as expressed not only in conversation, but in my letters to you.
May I ask one favor. If a meeting is to be held, let me be excluded
from participation in it. This was my purpose from the beginning,
as you will remember. I am nothing in a public meeting, and I do
not want to be. I can do most good away from it. Communicate this to Mr. Larkin.
and I trust to his friendship as to yours, to save me from application
which I must deny. I retain my opinion from the beginning
that a meeting ought not to be forced. Unless it is a free, open
meeting, general not, let it give way. This will be of less avail
a poor, divided, angry meeting.

Yrs Truly,

Wm. E. Channing.